YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

DR. J. TATE, M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

and

Sanitary Inspector

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

For the year 1954

"South Wales Voice," Ystalyfera.

The Medical Officer's Report

To: The Chairman and Members of the Council:

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1954.

The health of the district during the year has on the whole been good, the majority of deaths being in the higher age groups. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic disease. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low, cases occurring have been adequately and quickly dealt with by the Chest Physicians at the Adelina Patti Memorial, Craigynos, Penycae.

There has been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. The Council have adopted the Clean Food Byelaws under Section 15 Food and Drugs Act 1938, and inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling stores, bake houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice cream in accordance with the Regulations Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Byelaws.

The housing problem still remains a problem, indeed it is a national problem. A large percentage of the existing houses are occupied by more than one family and one cannot say that the housing problem will ever be effectively solved until every family has a house of its own. The Council however is pressing on building new houses, the chief difficulties being shortage of skilled labour and materials. In the allocation of new houses the Council has adopted the points scheme. Special consideration is given to those families that have cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis occupying the same bedroom with another healthy person.

Number of houses built by the Council 1920 to 1954: 916.

Number of houses built by the Council 1945 to 1953: 453

Number of houses built by the Council during 1954: 54

School medical service, maternity and child welfare clinics and the provision of schools meals are carried out by

the County Council. National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47. No action has been necessary under this Section during the year 1954.

I wish to tender my best thanks to the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. TATE, B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H,

Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY

There are seven piped water supplies in the area, five of which are chlorinated. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and every house has its own piped supply except in the case of some few scattered dwellings such as isolated farms. No water supply in the district is liable to plumbo solvent action. There has been no evidence of any form of contamination. The number of the population supplied from the public water mains direct to their houses is 11,400. There are no stand pipe supplies.

Appended is a list of bacteriological examination carried out:—

Date	*Water Supply*	*Result*
6/1/54	Colbren	Satisfactory.
6/1/54	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory.
6/1/54	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory.
10/2/54	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory.
10/2/54	Colbren	Satisfactory.
10/3/54	Nantmarl	Satisfactory.
10/3/54	Ffrydiau Twrch	Satisfactory.
10/3/54	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory.
10/3/54	Colbren	Satisfactory.
30/3/54	Colbren	Satisfactory.
30/3/54	Lion Supply	Satisfactory.
30/3/54	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory.
7/5/54	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory.
7/5/54	Lion Supply	Satisfactory.

Date		*Water Supply*		*Result*
19/5/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
[illegible]5/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
19/5/54	...	Colbren	...	Doubtful.
19/5/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.
19/5/54	...	Penwyllt	...	Satisfactory.
2/6/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory.
2/6/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
2/6/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Doubtful.
2/6/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Doubtful.
22/6/54	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory.
22/6/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
22/6/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory.
22/6/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.
22/6/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
7/7/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
7/7/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
7/7/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.
7/7/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory.
28/7/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
28/7/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
28/7/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory.
28/7/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.
1/9/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
1/9/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory.
1/9/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
1/9/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.
6/10/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Unsatisfactory.
6/10/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Unsatisfactory.
6/10/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Unsatisfactory.
20/10/54	...	Penwyllt	...	Unsatisfactory.
20/10/54	...	Nantmarl	...	Unsatisfactory.
20/10/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
20/10/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
8/11/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.
8/11/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
8/11/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
17/11/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.
17/11/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
17/11/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory.
17/11/54	...	Colbren	...	Satisfactory.
1/12/54	...	Ffrydiau Twrch	...	Satisfactory.
1/12/54	...	Lion Supply	...	Satisfactory.
1/12/54	...	Garwleisiau	...	Satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

The whole of the district is on main drainage wih one sewerage disposal works. The disposal plant has been working normally and the sewerage effluent complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

The district consists of two Parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower their respective areas 13,182 and 9,016, a total of 22,198 acres.

Population: 11,510.

Industries: Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, light engineering and furniture manufacture, quarrying and agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births:—

(a) Live Births:

Total: 163; 161 legitimate; 2 illegitimate.
Males: 80; 78 legitimate; 2 illegitimate.
Females: 83; 83 legitimate; — illegitimate.

(b) Still Births: Males 3; Females 2.
Showing a birth rate of 13. per 1,000 of the population.
Deaths: Total 125. Males 64; Females 61.
Being a death rate of 10.8 per 1.000 of the population.

Causes of Death:—	Males	Females
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	3
Tuberculosis (other forms)	0	0
Cancer of Stomach	1	3
Cancer of Lung	4	0
Cancer of Breast	0	3
Cancer: Other sites	7	7
Leukaemia	1	0
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	6	14
Coronary Disease	14	5
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
Other heart Disease	2	11
Other Circulatory disease	2	6
Influenza	0	0
Bronchitis	2	0

Causes of Death:—	Males	Females
Pneumonia	1	0
Other Respiratory Disease	7	0
Gastritis	1	0
Hyperlasia	3	0
Congenital Malformation	0	1
Other Diseases	6	5
Motor Accidents	0	0
All other accidents	4	2
Total	64	61

Chief Notifiable Diseases:—

Measles	1	Salmonella	1
Whooping Cough	24	Poliomyelitis	1
Vericella	0	Erysipelas	0
Scarlet Fever	4	Dysentry	1
Diptheria	0	Paratyphoid B.	0
Tuberculosis	8	Gastric Enteritis	2

Tuberculosis

New Cases Notified:—	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory	3	5	8
Non-Respiratory	0	0	0
Deaths:—			
Respiratory	3	3	6
Non-Respiratory	0	0	0

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low. 8 new cases were notified during the year. All the cases were visited and advised as to isolation pending admission to Sanatoria. The waiting period was of short duration and they were all dealt with expeditiously by the Chest Physician for the area.

Local Health Services under Part III of the National Health Service Act 1946, are carried out by the Brecon County Council and have worked efficiently.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

General Medical—Dr. A. F. Sladden, Beck Laboratory, General Hospital, Swansea.

Water Supplies — Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

Milk — Public Health Laboratory Services. Carmarthen.

Hospital Accommodation.

Infectious Diseases — The Infectious diseases Hospital is situated at Hill House, Swansea, and is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospital Facilities — General Hospital Facilities are provided for at Swansea General Hospital, Morriston Hospital, and the West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath. all of which are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Services — There are two Ambulances stationed in the district and they are under the control of the Brecon County Council.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The rehousing of needy families progressed during the year, 36 new houses being occupied together with 18 new flats. Six additional families were rehoused in old houses that became vacant making a total of 60 families rehoused during the year.

The food shops, canteens, sausage and ice cream manufacturing premises, fried fish shops, etc., were visited regularly and apart from one exception the conditions were satisfactory and called for no adverse comment.

In spite of an added number of houses the alternate day collection of refuse was satisfactorily maintained and the refuse tips gave no cause for anxiety during the summer months. Tipping operations were begun at Brynderi with the object of filling in a very real source of danger to children and every effort will be made to complete this work as soon as possible and to cover up the tip with a good layer of soil.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,

Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing Acts and Public Health Acts).	1087

Water Supply	26
Drainage	77
Housing Inspections	513
Infectious Diseases	33
Verminous Premises	0
Dairies and Milk Vehicles	12
Factories and Workshops	1
Food Premises	
Butchers	42
Canteens	12
Fishmongers	9
Grocers	29
Greengrocers	1
Fried Fish Shops	2
Ice Cream	12
Restaurants	15
Street Vendors	8
Bakehouses	5
Miscellaneous Food Visits	56
Refuse Collection and Disposal	95
Infestations	9
Sampling Visits:—	
Milk	15
Ice Cream	16
Tents, Vans, Sheds	2
Public Conveniences	61
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	17
Slaughterhouses	9
Atmospheric Pollution	3
Schools	2
Shops	5
	1087

Inspection of Dwellinghouses

(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year (Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	414
(b) Number of Inspections for the purposes	513

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. ... ...

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 2
2. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices 17

(a) By Owners... 17

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil
2. Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil
3. Statutory Notices served under Water Act ... ... Nil
4. Number complied with ... ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil
2. Number of Separate Tenements in underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were detemined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit ... ...Nil

NOTICES SERVED

Under the Housing Acts:

Number of Informal Notices served ... ... Nil

Number of Informal Notices complied with ... ... Nil

Number of Formal Notices served ... ... Nil

Number of Formal Notices complied with ... ... Nil

Under the Public Health Acts:

Number of Informal Notices 27

Number of Informal Notices complied with 17

Number of Formal Notices served 2

Number of Formal Notices complied with 2

Public Cleansing.—The Karrier Bantam Refuse Lorries have again given excellent service during the year and there was hardly any call for the use of the standby Fordson, which has been mainly used by the Surveyor's Department. Daily collections have been maintained on the main shopping centre and three times weekly in the remaining areas. Tipping operations have been begun at Brynderi with the object of filling in the dangerous pool at the entrance of the old workings and when this has been accomplished and the refuse properly covered with a layer of soil a very real source of danger to children will have been obviated. Tipping is also carried out at Pantmawr, Penycae, and Penygraig, Colbren. A total number of 3304 loads were collected during the year, comprising a tonnage of 9,103.

Disinfection.—Terminal disinfection was carried out at 4 houses which is again a reduction on last year's figure and probably the lowest number yet recorded. Free disinfectant was distributed for the use of the householder concerned to wash down the premises in addition to fumigation by formalin gas.

Disinfestation.—10 houses were disinfested but it should be noted that none of these were dirty or verminous. The work was carried out to clear the houses of ants or beetles with satisfactory success in each case. In this connection it should again be noted that the standard of cleanliness in houses belonging to the Council is very satisfactory and regular visits only serves to bring forth a very occasional unsatisfactory tenant. A close watch is kept on the half dozen or so tenants that fall into this category.

Milk Supply.—The following have been registered as Dealers and Distributors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations:—

Dealers T.T	4	Supplementary Sterilised	1
Dealers Pasteurised ...	13	Dealers Sterilised	5
Supplementary Pasteurised	2	Distributors	13

Distributors' vehicles were regularly examined and gave no cause for complaint. During the year 33 samples of milk were sent for analysis only one of which was unsatisfactory. Of these samples 5 were taken from Schools and all were satisfactory. Two samples were taken from Distributors of Raw Milk for Biological Tests both of which were negative.

Sewage Effluent.—Samples of sewage effluent were taken at the Council's Sewage Works prior to discharge into the River Tawe and on these the Public Analyst summarised as follows:—

Sample No. 1. (February 3rd, 1954).—This effluent did not comply with the General Standards recommended in the Eighth Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal for an effluent fit for discharge into a stream or river.

Sample No. 2 (September 15th, 1954).—This sample complied with the General Standard recommended in the Eighth Report of the Royal Commision on Sewage Disposal for an effluent fit for discharge into a stream or river.

In conjunction with the above a sample of water taken from the River Tawe fifty yards below the discharge of the effluent was classified as "Fairly Clean."

Food and Drugs Act.—191 visits were made to food premises for all purposes under the Act, including 12 visits to Industrial and School Canteens. An adverse report was made in respect of one industrial canteen and the management were given a warning and this had the desired effect. The other canteens in the area are well supervised and their general condition is worthy of note. The fried fish shops in the district are inspected during business hours and conditions therein were found to be satisfactory. Butchers shops and sausage making premises were also periodically inspected and called for no adverse comment.

The following articles of food were condemned as unfit for consumption:—

Cheese: 24 lbs.
Ham: 172 lbs.
Ideal Milk: 1 Tin.
Jam: 8 Tins.
Tin Milk: 63 Tins.
Tinned Meat: 161 Tins.
Biscuits: 1 Tin.
Tinned Fruit: 208 Tins.
Tinned Fish: 2 Tins.
Peas: 11 Tins.
Sausages: 6½ lbs.
Bacon: 91½ lbs.

Tinned Vegtables: 173 Tins.
Tomatoes: 33 Tins.
Soup: 7 Tins.
Sauce: 32 Bottles.
Spongie: 30 Packets.
Honey: 6 Bottles.
Custard Powder: 9 Packets.
Pickles: 21 Bottles
Pudding Mixture: 51 Pkts.
Cake: 10 Packets.
Medicine: 14 Bottles.
Minerals: 10 Bottles.

Ice Cream.—No. of premises registered:—

(a) For Manufacture	4
(b) For Sale of Ice Cream	29

Bacteriological Analysis of Ice Cream

No. of Samples submitted	22
No. of Samples in Grade 1	5
No. of Samples in Grade 2	4
No. of Samples in Grade 3	6
No. of Samples in Grade 4	7

It is disappointing to note that the number of samples in Grade 1 is well below the figure for last year whilst those in the lower 2 grades show a marked increase. However premises were systematically inspected and on no occasion was there evidence that the premises or methods were unhygienic.

HOUSING

54 families were rehoused during the year in 18 new flats and 36 new houses. 8 of the flats were occupied by Old Age Pensioners and the other ten by small families who were not favourably placed on the register and yet who were living under unsatisfactory conditions and were in need of rehousing. Six of the houses were at Dolfain and Minyrhos, completing the sites at Penrhos, the remaining 30 being extension to the Gorof Sites, namely Heol Lynden and Heol Philip. In addition 6 families were rehoused in old houses that became vacant during the year, making a total of 60 families rehoused.

The acceptance by the Council of a supplementary method of allocating flats should not only facilitate the work but also give a large measure of consideration to those smaller and needy families that hitherto have stood little chance of being rehoused. Apart from flats allocated to Old Age Pensioners consideration for flats in future will be given to those people with no children and who have been married for a very long period and yet have never had a home of their own. This is undoubtedly a small consideration that is long overdue especially when one couples with need, the fact that such people will make excellent tenants for flats above those occupied by Old Age Pensioners. The basic qualification for these flats will be the three years marriage and residential qualification, need and suitablity.

The repairing of old houses was not neglected and 17

houses were repaired as the result of informal notices served on the owners and 2 following the serving of Statutory Notices. No Closing Orders or Demolition Orders were made during the year.

Inspections to houses owned by the Council were periodically carried out and it is pleasing to report again that the standard of cleanliness of our tenants is maintained, the occasional black sheep being the exception rather than the rule.

RODENT CONTROL

The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows:—

	No. Treated	Points Laid	Estimated Killed	Bodies Found
SEWERS	All Sections	376	163	26
REFUSE TIPS		411	379	100
RIVER BANKS	15	675	406	117
PRIVATE PREMISES	389	1877	1365	445
BUSINESS PREMISES	14	406	253	76
TOTALS	418	3745	2566	764

RAINFALL

Rainfall figures for the year:—

January	2.59 ins.	July	5.32 ins.
Feburary	6.72 ins.	August	6.99 ins.
March	5.46 ins.	September	9.31 ins.
April	1.95 ins.	October	13.16 ins.
May	6.26 ins.	November	13.06 ins.
June	6.72 ins.	December	7.72 ins.

Total for the year: 85.26 ins.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,
Sanitary Inspector.